

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that this application is currently under final rejection. Accordingly, Applicants have submitted herewith a Request for Continued Examination, and respectfully request that this application be considered further in light of the foregoing amendment, together with the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner, Mr. Le, for his courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during an interview conducted November 6, 2009. During the interview, counsel and the Examiner discussed a proposed revision to the last paragraph in the body of Claim 1. As indicated in the Interview Summary, at the conclusion of the discussion, it was agreed that the proposed amendment to Claim 10 appears to overcome the applied prior art. In addition, at the conclusion of the discussion, it was also agreed that Applicants would delete the penultimate subparagraph from Claim 10, and place it (with the clarifying revisions discussed during the interview) into a new dependent Claim 21.

During the interview, the Examiner and counsel reviewed paragraphs [0029] - [0036] of the Stasik et al reference (WO 02/060715), and concluded that it does not teach or suggest either of the criteria formerly set forth in the last paragraph of Claim 10, or in the last paragraph of Claim 21. Accordingly, it is

believed that both amended Claim 10, and new Claim 21, which set forth these two criteria separately, are believed to be allowable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 095309.56195US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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